

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)  
Massachusetts Immunization Program

## Hib Vaccine Shortage Continues

1. ActHIB® Allocations are Significantly Reduced for Massachusetts and
2. More Providers Must Order Pentacel® to Ensure Patients Receive 3 Doses of a Hib Vaccine

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has notified the MDPH that our proportions of Hib vaccine will change dramatically in the month of December. Now, more than 75% of our monthly Hib allocation will be Pentacel® (DTaP-IPV/Hib) and the balance as Hib vaccine (ActHIB®). (Our proportions for October were 50% Pentacel® and 50% ActHIB®). In addition, the shortage is now projected to **continue** until July 2009, when Merck's PedvaxHIB® vaccine is anticipated to return to market.

- MDPH urges **all** providers to begin ordering Pentacel® to preserve our state's Hib supply to maintain the 3-dose infant Hib shortage schedule.
- Sanofi Pasteur is currently the **only** manufacturer of Hib vaccine in the United States and is trying to meet needs nationwide. However, there is **no** shortage of Pentacel® vaccine.

MDPH staff is available to you to assist you and your practice with:

- adjusting orders;
- inventory management;
- other helpful suggestions for Pentacel® introduction.

If you have questions, contact the Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828.

MDPH has developed a detailed advisory with clinical information about Pentacel, guidance for the introduction of Pentacel® into your practice and suggested schedules. Our *Vaccine Order Form*, *Vaccine Usage Aggregate Report* and the *Vaccine Administration Record* (dated August 2008) have been modified to include Pentacel®. These documents and other MDPH guidance are available at [www.mass.gov/dph/imm](http://www.mass.gov/dph/imm).